

## DR. BUTLER PRAISES FRENCH GENERALSHIP

Marshal Foch Is Guest of  
France-America Society  
at the Waldorf.

### TRIBUTE TO JOFFRE

Allied Armies Indebted to  
Him for Selection of  
Commander.

### MARNE ORDER RECALLED

Foch Despatch, Says Toast-  
master, Ranks With World  
Famous Messages.

Marshal Foch was the guest of the France-America Society last night at the Waldorf. There were other features on his day's programme, the fulfilment of which might have taxed younger men, but the distinguished Frenchman was on hand, smiling as usual, when Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the society, called upon him.

Although among the more recent functions to be arranged in honor of Marshal Foch the dinner of the France-America Society last night lost nothing by comparison in point of the warmth and sincerity with which the guest of honor was welcomed and acclaimed.

Dr. Butler in a stirring speech reviewing the glory of France and her military leaders in the war struck a popular note by a kindly reference to Marshal Joffre, whose visit as a member of the French Military Mission was recalled. None showed keener appreciation of this compliment to his countryman than Marshal Foch.

#### Dr. Butler's Address.

"It would be as unfair as ungracious," Dr. Butler said, "to fail to speak of our debt to Marshal Joffre, whose calm, sure judgment of men quickly selected Foch for the most responsible command and hurried him to it. When the history of the war is finally written, it will be known to all men how greatly the allied armies are in debt to Marshal Joffre for his wisdom and his insight in choosing those who were to bear high responsibility in the armies under his command." Dr. Butler's speech in full follows:

"To-night our society walks on the high places of experience and of enthusiasm. At the very moment when the world is in eager conference to search for the foundations of a just and lasting peace that will relieve the civilized nations from longer carrying the staggering burden of huge armaments on land and on sea, we assemble to greet the Commander in Chief of the allied and associated armies in the great war. It was by reason of his genius that the conference at Washington has been made possible.

"If the startlingly few kilometers that lay between Von Kluck's army and Paris on September 5, 1914, had been traversed by the enemy; or if the armies of the Kaiser had broken through across the Yser to the Channel ports in October of that year; or if the armies of Ludendorff had separated the English and the French fronts at Amiens in March and April, 1918; or if the heroic defence of Verdun had failed, we should not have been gathered here, and there would have been no conference at Washington.

#### Source of Victory.

"The center of political gravity would have passed to Berlin, and the ideals and tendencies to rule the next generation would have been strangely different from those in which we have confidence and faith. The imagination

fails back helplessly from the effort to picture the world as it would have been under the domination of German militarism, German imperialism, and German materialism. The spirit of man would have gasped helplessly for breath in the poisoned air of what had once been liberty and progress.

"How was the victory won? No less an authority than Napoleon laid it down that before all else, that which brings victory is the character and conduct of the chief command. It was not the Roman legions, adds Napoleon, which conquered the Gauls, but Caesar. It was not the soldiers of Carthage that made Rome tremble, but Hannibal. Without valiant and devoted troops, without an almost indescribable spirit of courage and sacrifice, no commander would have won the Great War. But without a great commander, the war could not have been won.

"The wisest and most competent students of human warfare have long since pointed out those qualities upon which success in arms depends. The Roman historian, in writing of this conspiracy of Catinus nearly twenty centuries ago, uses words which might well have been written in 1918. 'For a long time,' says Sallust, 'military men have discussed the question whether success in arms depends more on strength of body or excellence of mind, for before you begin deliberation is necessary; then such of these, mind and body, being incomplete of itself, requires the other's aid.'

#### Entered Contest as Theorist.

"The historian of long ago could not more accurately have described the characteristics of Marshal Foch and the millions of soldiers under his command. Strong and brave they were in body; fearless and indomitable they were in courage and in sacrifice; but above and beyond that they were inspired by noble ideals, and their characters as well as their bodies were the fit instruments of the will to win.

"The Commander in Chief had perhaps never seen troops engaged in actual combat before the early days of August, 1914. He had been a lifelong student of the history and art of war, and of those principles, moral and physical, which lead to victory or which compel defeat. He brought to the practical



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task of defending civilization against a most capable and well prepared foe the equipment of a theorist, of one who sees, who studies, who reflects, but whose seeing, whose studies, whose reflection, have been to such purpose that they could be quickly translated into action so effective as to save a threatened world.

"Which are the best troops?" asked Mme. de Montholon at St. Helena. "Those which win battles, Madame," replied Napoleon. "The best troops have been the Carthaginians under Hannibal, the Romans under the Scipios, the Meccans under Alexander and the Prussians under Frederick the Great. One may, perhaps, equal my army in Italy and that at Ansterlitz, but certainly none can ever excel them." One wonders what Napoleon would have added could he have watched the ebullient flow of the tide of battle for the four long years that followed the invasion of France and the violation of the neutrality of Belgium in August, 1914.

#### Joffre's Historic Order.

"There were supreme moments in that conflict, and one of them came on that anxious Sunday, September 8, 1914, when the invading hosts had passed quickly across the fair fields of Champagne and had reached the banks of the Marne, almost within eyeshot of the Paris that was their main objective. Marshal Joffre's historic order to make a stand and take the offensive had been issued on the evening of September 4. The world held its breath as the retreating troops turned to face the enemy.

"Gen. Foch was in command of the Ninth Army at the very center of the battle front and exposed to most dan-

gerous attack. What must have been the feeling of Marshal Joffre when he received Gen. Foch's famous despatch: 'My centre is giving way, my right is falling back; all is going well; I am attacking.' This despatch marks a great historic event and will be remembered with the Vercy, vici, vici of Julius Caesar. The genius of the student of war inspired the commander on the field of battle and victory was snatched from defeat. From that moment, while the final result was often and long in doubt, the war was never lost for the Allies.

"Fields of battle that listened to the stamping of millions of human feet and to the unceasing roar of artillery beyond all precedent had been for nearly two thousand years the scene of conflicts, each one of which seemed more important, indeed more momentous, than the other. Over this ground Caesar and Ariovistus had fought; then Clovis the Frank and Attila the Hun; then Edward III. of England and Charles V. of the Holy Roman Empire; then Marlborough and Louis XIV.; then Napoleon and Wellington. Here at Châlons the Hunns had been stopped. Here at Verdun the Empire of Charlemagne had been divided into the parts that were to be the beginnings of the nations of modern Europe.

"Here at Vaincy the armies of the Revolution beat back the Duke of Brunswick and his trained soldiers from beyond the Rhine. Here once more on Meuse and Aisne and Somme and Marne, over the plains of Champagne and the fair ground of Picardy and Artois, the age old conflict was to be fought, but this time on a scale so massive and with results so terrible that every con-

dict that had preceded seemed like the play of children.

#### The Will to Victory.

"This is neither the time nor the place to review the history of the war. This is the time and the place to recall those qualities of mind and heart, those traits of character and those fruits of study that by their concentration in a single human form produced the leader that won the war. Marshal Foch himself as professor of the Ecole de Guerre had been teaching the profound truth that not physical force alone but character, strength of will and the conviction that victory was not only possible but certain were the chief elements of success. All this he illustrated to the utmost.

"Whether in command of a division or of a corps or of an army, or as Commander-in-Chief, it was always the same personality, the same characteristics, the same knowledge and imperishable high purpose that were revealed.

"It would be as unfair as ungracious to fail to speak of our debt to Marshal Joffre, whose calm, sure judgment of men quickly selected General Foch for most responsible command and hurried him to it. When the history of the war is finally written, it will be known to all men how greatly the allied armies are in the debt of Marshal Joffre for his wisdom and his insight in choosing those who were to bear high responsibility in the armies then under his command.

"The victory has been won, and the world is still with puzzled air contemplating its effects. While one great problem has been solved, let us hope forever, a hundred new problems have

been raised up to vex us and to disturb the even course of prosperity and progress. Precisely the same qualities that won the war will be needed to solve the problems of peace and to preserve the peace won at so huge a sacrifice of life and of treasure.

"The war has taught us many lessons of importance, and not the least is the lesson that even in war it is the impalpables that count. We are pointed to higher standards and nobler ideals than those furnished by the flesh or the flesh pots. We are pointed to a patriotism which is too fine and too splendid to be imperialist, militarist or Chauvinist, and to a character so firm that it will not be shaken from its base by winds of false doctrine, by whisperings of addition, or by the open preaching of the gospel of discontent and disorder. All this we have learned from the war and from the life and conduct of the commander in chief of the allied armies.

"It was the fortune of Marshal Foch, with the warm approval and most effective cooperation of the General commanding the American Expeditionary Forces, General Pershing, to become the successor of George Washington and of the American armies in the field. He is therefore to us no longer Marshal of France alone, but one who has been General commanding the armies of the United States in the field.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you our distinguished guest. I find no words more suited to his presentation than those with which he himself opens his notable 'Eloge de Napoleon': 'Si le prestige de ce nom a conquis l'admiration du monde, il est non moins

certain que son éclat grandit, à mesure que le recul du temps permet de mesurer l'ampleur de la tâche accomplie.'—Ferdinand Foch, Maréchal de France."

#### The Marshal's Response.

Marshal Foch in response, spoke briefly of the unity of the allied command, and told of the faith of the French people in America, when the American army began coming over to France. He said:

"First they came over in hundreds, then in thousands, then in tens of thousands and in the last six months they come over at the rate of 300,000 a month.

"When I telegraphed your President that I must have 100 divisions by June 1, 1918, your President replied 'You shall have 100 divisions by June 1, 1918, and as many more thereafter as you may need.'

"Nothing in the history equaled the way the American troops crossed a continent and an ocean to rescue liberty. 'So surely as we have understood each other in the past, we shall understand each other in the future. We may not live together as one nation, but we shall live together as one great family.'

#### Among the Guests.

Among those at the dinner were R. A. C. Smith, E. H. Outbridge, Sir Eustace Flinders, Governor-General of the Leeward Islands; Gen. George R. Dyer, A. Barton Hepburn, Grover A. Whalen, James W. Gerard, Melville E. Stone, Darwin P. Kinsey, Frank A. Munsey, Capt. C. T. Vogelgesang, U. S. N.; Gaston Liebert, Consul-General of France; Jules J. Jusserand, French Ambassador; Chauncey M. Depew, William Milligan

Sloane, president of the American Academy; Frederick Canfield-Gwyn, Charles M. Schwab, Maurice Cazenave, French High Commissioner; H. Gloster Armstrong, British Consul-General; Rear Admiral James H. Glennon, U. S. A.; August Belmont, Paul D. Cravath, Frederick H. Allen, Otto H. Kahn, McDougall Hawkes, William A. Frederick, Ex-Gov. Charles K. Whitman, Samuel W. Fairchild, Herman A. Metz, William R. Willcox and others.

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